

Mine, Mill Close Jan. 31; Refinery May Stay Open

The National Lead Co., its employees and the citizens of Fredericktown are sweating out a notice posted last week to the effect that the mine and mill operations of the company will cease on January 31. Equally worrying is whether or not the refinery will continue to operate.

This week, through O. D. Niedermeyer, general manager, the following statement was released:

"The St. Louis Smelting and Refining Division, National Lead Company, announces the closing of its lead mining operation at Fredericktown, Mo. on January 31, 1961, due to economic developments. The Division mine and mill at Fredericktown employs about 160 people and has been in operation since 1944, producing lead and copper concentrates for sale to smelter.

"The St. Louis Smelting and Refining Division also operates a refinery at Fredericktown employing about 200 people for the production of metallic cobalt and nickel and copper precipitates. This facility has been using, as a raw material, by-product concentrate from the mining operations. Studies are now being made on the possibilities for continuing operations at the refinery."

On January 20 the following telegram was sent to J. R. VanCamp at Danville, Ill.: "Fredericktown mine to be shut down. Possibility exists that refinery can operate if certain conditions are acceptable. Discussed with local committee. Asked them to withhold comment until you have been consulted. Answer on this matter must be obtained prior to 10:00 a.m., January 30. Suggest meeting with you and committee. Please advise."

The telegram sent to VanCamp, International Representative of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, was sent by M. J. Knebel who handles negotiations and labor matters for National Lead.

Depressed

To this newspaper the picture looks like this: The mine and mill will close January 31 because of the depressed lead price and the fact that the lead concentrates cannot be sold. The refinery will stay open, working on stockpiles and scrap, if the union does not insist on "bumping" procedures which would put untrained men in the refinery.

It is understood, though not confirmed by this newspaper, that the members of Local 800 have had several meetings to discuss the matter but without the presence of VanCamp. It is known, too, that the Company and the Union committee, together with VanCamp, will meet at the company offices on Sunday, January 29 at 1 p.m. The union members are expected to meet following the company-

Chamber Tells Congressmen Of Conditions

Wires Sent To Symington, Long, Ichord

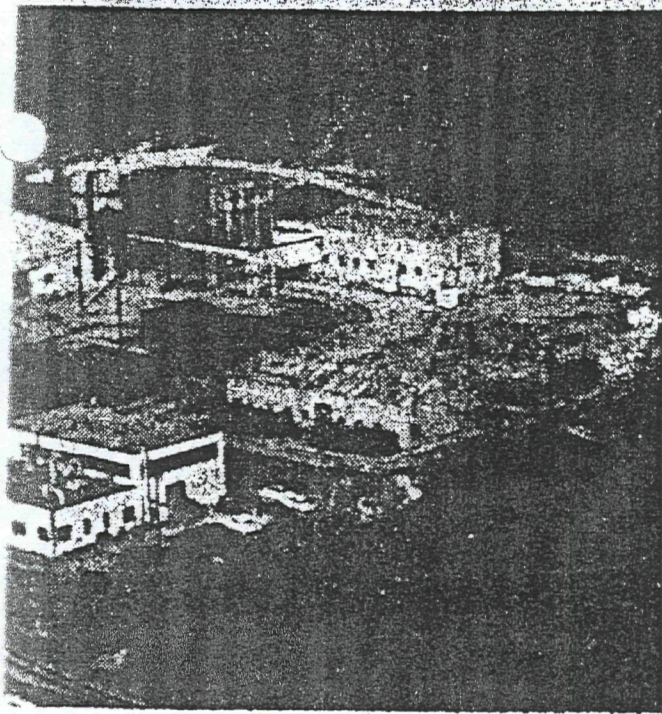
Not content to sit idly by and watch the lead industry completely crumble, the Fredericktown Chamber of Commerce this week sent wires to Senators Stuart Symington and Edward Long and to Representative Dick Ichord, urging relief for the stricken lead industry of Missouri.

L. A. Mercier, president of the Chamber, told The Democrat-News that there is legislation being fostered in Washington which would effect a system of flexible import taxes on lead and zinc. The legislation will contain a provision to eliminate the lead-zinc quota system in effect since 1958 by direction of President Eisenhower.

In effect this legislation would impose a sliding scale of import taxes in addition to fixed duties. Similar legislation was unanimously recommended last year by the House Ways and Means Committee.

Already received is one tele-
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Nichols To New Office In Capital



will remain open for several more months. The refinery employs about 200 men. See story elsewhere for more complete details.

THE
Democrat
and
Advertiser

40381483



Superfund

June 90—Number 45

Thursday, January 26, 1961

EDITORIAL

For Action, Not Defeat

When an athletic team finds itself on the brink of defeat, it literally pulls itself to victory by hard play and inspiration. At Fredericktown respond to the news that the mining and mill operations at National are to close next week.

As a matter of fact, we must look with a great deal of satisfaction and pride on the progress of Fredericktown since the days of the Great Depression. Since that time we have profited tremendously by the lead industry, a shoe factory exists which employs 40 people, we have improved our standards of living by good water and power facilities, we have fine schools (and need more), we have several smaller industries, Black River Electric has moved to our community, a hospital with 67 beds is being built, and shortly with a large payroll, a new industry employing